

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney wishes to thank Examiner McNally and Examiner Goff for the courtesies extended to applicant's attorney and to applicant's representative, Mr. Frank Brunnecker, during the personal interview of January 29, 2010.

During that interview Examiner McNally provided a machine translation of the Nishio reference. It was clear from the translation, and it was agreed, that Nishio relates solely to welding alloyed steels or high-carbon steels, rather than thermoplastics, as claimed herein. The reason that Nisei discloses a second form of radiation in the welding process is to prevent too rapid cooling of the welded area and thus prevent coarsening of crystal grains. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would have no reason to combine Nishio with Savitski, because thermoplastics do not need controlled cooling to prevent formation of crystal grains (which are nonexistent in thermoplastics). Additionally, in the presently claimed method the secondary source of heat is to provide additional heat to the welding area, not to prevent too-rapid cooling of the weld area. This is consistent with Mr. Brunnecker's discovery that Professor Nishio worked in the field of metals, not thermoplastics.

Additionally, it should be noted that the herein claimed process is directed to a method for contour welding. As discussed during the interview, "contour welding" is a term of the art. Submitted herewith are copies of "Engineering Talk, Laser Welding of Polymers"; Cat.Inist. an abstract of a document titled, "Evaluating Quasi-simultaneous and Contour Welding for use with the Clearweld Process"; and Volkov,

Welding International, **23(3)**:213-218, 2009, abstract only, of "Ultrasound Contour Welding of Polymer Packages Containing Food Products."

The specification has been amended to correct an inadvertent error in identifying the laser transmissive and the laser absorptive layers in Figures 3 and 4. The specification has been reviewed for other inconsistencies, and no others were found.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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